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must carry insurance, and if you don't, why your license is taken away. Along with that, the injuries from a motorcycle...or an automobile accident are not nearly, on a mile rating, nearly as bad as what happens, and the expense, as what happens on a motorcycle. The Journal Star after the passage to...on General File had an editorial that I think really sums it up very well: The evidence in favor of the mandatory motorcycle helmet laws are so overwhelming that one would think the question is a no brainer. The mountain of statistical evidence that helmets make motorcycles use...make motorcycle use safer, and for those who argue let the rider decide whether to take this risk, there is another mountain of evidence of those who crash without helmets leave sizeable medical bills to be paid by nonriders. Yet the State Legislature has given first round approval to a bill that would repeal the state helmet law. So let's review the evidence. Decades, decades of motorcycle crash data shows that motorcycle helmets reduce the risk of death 29 percent and are 67 percent effective in preventing trauma brain injury. I think that really makes a statement there, according to the National Highway Safety Administration. When Arkansas repealed its helmet law in 1997, motorcycle deaths rose 21 percent. When Texas repealed its law, motorcycle deaths rose 31 percent. Motorcyclists injured without helmets spent an average,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...and this brings it right back here to home, motorcyclists injured without helmets spent an average of six days in intensive care at Lincoln General Hospital, now Bryan LGH West during a two year period. Accident victims wearing helmets spent less than two days in intensive care according to Dr. Charles Gregorius. That makes quite a statement there, too, that even if they are in an accident there is one-third the less time in a hospital. Motorcyclists enthusiast portray the issue as one of government interference and argue that they should be given freedom to let the wind blow through their hair and roar down a legislature or roar down a highway, born to be wild. Here you would sound like a sound track for an editorial. Too often those easy riders end up as burdens to society while they rehabilitate their injuries. I think the editorial is right on.